



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT SAMPSON  
EIGHTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
HOME: (203) 879-3200  
rob.sampson@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

*Testimony by Representative Rob Sampson  
Before the Transportation Committee  
On House Bills 5227 & 5329  
February 9, 2015*

Good morning Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, Representative O'Dea, Senator Boucher, and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'm here this morning to express my support for HB 5227 - AN ACT REPEALING THE STATUTE ALLOWING MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS' LICENSES FOR DRIVING PURPOSES ONLY and HB 5329 - AN ACT CONCERNING LIMITATIONS ON THE ISSUANCE OF A SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSE. I submitted HB 5229 to reverse the recently passed law that would require the State Department of Motor Vehicles to issue valid Connecticut driver's licenses to illegal immigrants who reside in the state in violation of federal immigration laws. In lieu of a full repeal, HB 5329 would at least take a significant step in the direction of public safety.

I don't think anyone believes our immigration system is working well in this country. However, this is a poor way to attempt to address a very real and critical problem. This law isn't about making our roads safer as the proponents suggest. There's nothing in this bill that makes our roads safer. It is doubtful that a person willing to violate our immigration laws and also drive without a license is suddenly, given this opportunity to hold a valid operator's license, going to become law abiding, purchase insurance and so on.

Rather, it's about providing legally documented validation sanctioned by state government to people who are here illegally under federal law. A driver's license is a gateway document to a number of privileges afforded only to legal citizens. Those include employment, obtaining bank accounts, and of course, the right to vote. There are virtually no safeguards to ensure those who receive licenses under this measure are who they say they are or originate from where they say they do. This will simply encourage more illegal immigration at great financial cost to our state and with serious potential unintended consequences, some directly affecting the safety of our

citizens. Considering recent events in the US and around the world, I feel this proposal also ignores the very real threat of terrorism.

Further, there is an alarming lack of a mechanism to truly validate where an individual is originally from, or where they currently reside, let alone provide for a reliable background check. This law provides an incentive for out-of-state felons to move to Connecticut because there little attempt to ascertain if there is any criminal record for the applicant outside the boundaries of Connecticut. It also allows unverifiable documents such as emails to suffice as valid forms of proving residence.

There are anywhere from 65,000- 200,000 undocumented aliens who might be made eligible for a state driver's license under this legislation. I fear that Connecticut may become a magnet for undocumented aliens from across the country seeking to obtain this documentation.

It should be noted that seven states that have enacted similar legislation have since reversed themselves. There must be a good reason for that.